

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in the present application.

Claims 7-9 have been added.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited.

An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly requested.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

Benoit Castel

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Benoit Castel, Reg. No. 35,041

745 South 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Arlington, VA 22202  
Telephone (703) 521-2297

BC/bam  
Attachments

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADEIN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

The Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended as follows:

## ABSTRACT

A stainless steel tube ~~for a automobile structure member~~ having excellent formability for secondary operation comprises: a chemical composition including not more than 0.20 mass % of C; not more than 1.5 mass % of Si; not more than 2.0 mass % of Mn; 10-18 mass % of Cr; not more than 0.03 mass % of N; or further at least one type of element selected from the group of : not more than 0.6 mass % of Cu; not more than 0.6 mass % of Ni; not more than 2.5 mass % of Mo; not more than 1.0 mass % of Nb; not more than 1.0 mass % of Ti; and not more than 1.0 mass % of V; Fe as the remainder and the inevitable impurities; and a structure ~~which~~ is constituted of ferrite or ferrite and martensite, wherein the TE value defined by the following formula(1) exceeds 25,000MPa~~%~~.

$$\underline{\text{TE valueMpa}\cdot\%, \quad \text{TE} = \text{TS} \times (\text{E1} + 21.9)}$$

~~In the aforementioned formula,~~ 21.9) TS represents the tensile strength in the tube axial direction ~~(MPa)~~, and E1 represents the elongation in ~~the tube axial direction (%)~~ such direction.

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) A stainless steel tube according to claim 1-~~or~~  
2, wherein the diameter of ferrite grain is preferably not more  
than 8  $\mu\text{m}$ .

4. (Amended) A stainless steel tube according to ~~any one of~~  
~~claims 1 to 3, claim 1,~~ wherein the area ratio of said martensite  
is not more than 30 %.

5. (Amended) A stainless steel tube according to ~~any one of~~  
~~claims 1 to 4, claim 1,~~ further comprising, in addition to the  
aforementioned chemical composition, at least one type of  
element selected from the group consisting of: not more than 0.6  
mass % of Cu; not more than 0.6 mass % of Ni; not more than 2.5  
mass % of Mo; not more than 1.0 mass % of Nb; not more than 1.0  
mass % of Ti; and not more than 1.0 mass % of V.

6. (Amended) A automobile structure member having excellent  
fatigue resistance property, which member is produced by  
subjecting the stainless steel tube of ~~any one of claims 1 to~~  
~~5~~claim 1 to a secondary forming treatment and a heat refining  
treatment so that the tensile strength thereof becomes not  
smaller than 800 MPa.